Res. 15-XX

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT RESEARCH ON THE USE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND MONITORING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

WHEREAS, As of December 2014, 23 states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to legalize medical use of marijuana.

WHEREAS, using marijuana can produce adverse physical, mental, emotional and behavioral changes, can significantly reduce motor coordination and slow reaction time, and use during pregnancy may be associated with neurological problems in babies and impaired school performance later in childhood. Whether smoking or otherwise consuming marijuana has therapeutic benefits that outweigh its health risks is still an open question that science has not resolved.[1]

WHEREAS, Marijuana has been used to treat certain health conditions such as glaucoma and seizure disorders.[2]

WHEREAS, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and marijuana are promoted to relieve pain, control nausea and vomiting, and stimulate appetite in people with cancer and AIDS.[3]

WHEREAS, cannabidiol, an active chemical in marijuana, may help prevent cancer from spreading.[4]

WHEREAS, Marijuana may be able to slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease.[5]

WHEREAS, THC, the active chemical in marijuana, has been shown to slow the formation of amyloid plaques by blocking the enzyme in the brain that makes them.[6]

WHEREAS, Marijuana may ease painful symptoms of multiple sclerosis.[7]

WHEREAS, A 2006 study in the European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology[8] found that 86% of patients using marijuana successfully completed their Hep C therapy, while only 29% of non-smokers completed their treatment. Marijuana also may improve the treatment's effectiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Association of District Boards of Health (IAB) supports adequate and well-controlled studies under the oversight of the Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health of marijuana and related cannabinoids in patients who have serious conditions for which preclinical, anecdotal, or controlled evidence suggests possible efficacy and the application of such results to the understanding and treatment of disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAB strongly encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a monitoring program to assess the public health impact of legalizing medical use of marijuana.

[1]National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Drug. Retrieved from http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana-medicine
[2]Rappold, Scott . R. (April 2, 2014). Legalize Medical Marijuana, Doctors Say in Survey. [Article]. Retrieved from http://www.webmd.com/news/breaking-news/marijuana-on-main-street/20140225/webmd-marijuana-survey-web

[3]America Cancer Socity. Retreived from http://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatmentsandsideeffects/complementaryandalternativemedicine/herbsvitaminsandminerals/marijuana

[4]California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. (2007, November 6). Cannabidiol as a novel inhibitor of Id-1 gene expression in aggressive breast cancer cells. [Report]. Retrieved from http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18025276

[5] Scripps Research Institute. (2005, August 9). *Marijuana's Active Ingredient Shown to Inhibit Primary Marker of Alzheimer's Disease Discovery Could Lead to More Effective Treatments* [News Release]. Retrieved from http://www.scripps.edu/news/press/2006/080906.html

[6]2006 Study, Jounral Molecular Parmaceutics. (2006, August 9). A Molecular Link between the Active Component of Marijuana and Alzheimer's Disease Pathology. [Article]. Retrieved from http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/mp060066m?journalCode=mpohbp

[7]Canadian Medical Association Journal. (2012 May 14). Marijuana may ease multiple sclerosis symptoms
 [Article]. Retrieved from http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/14/us-marijuana-sclerosis-idUSBRE84D0RS20120514

[8]2005 sudy in the European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. (October 2006). Cannabis use improves retention and virological outcomes in patients treated for hepatitis C. Retrieved from http://journals.lww.com/eurojgh/pages/articleviewer.aspx?year=2006&issue=10000&article=00005&type=abstract